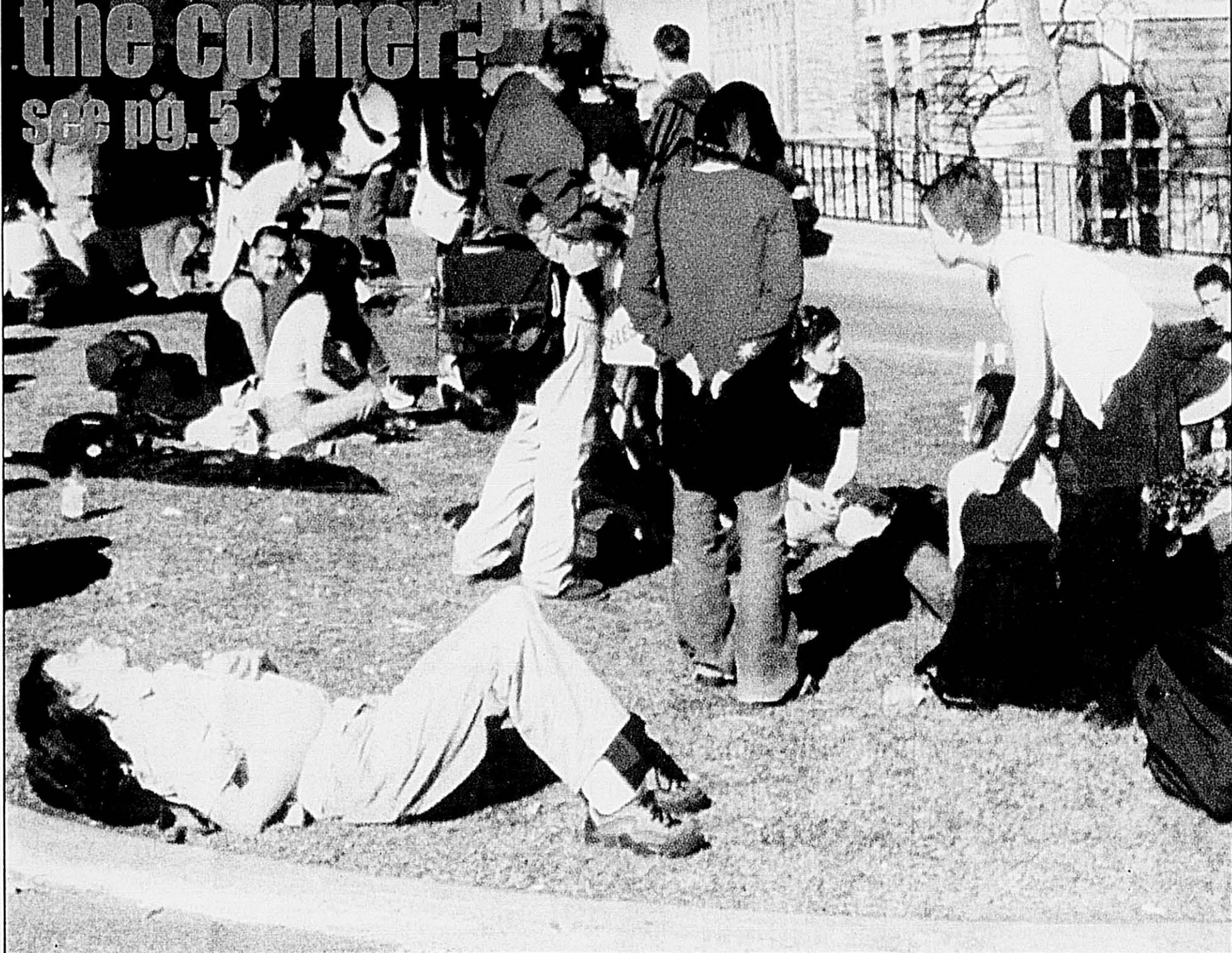


THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 89, Issue 64 March 27, 2000

Watching our backs since 1911

In a seemingly
safe campus,
could violence
be lurking around
the corner?
see pg. 5



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*Still waiting for SSMU daycare as execs
pass the buck – pg. 3*

CULTURE–

*Nelson Freire rockin' out to Rachmaninov
– pg. 11*

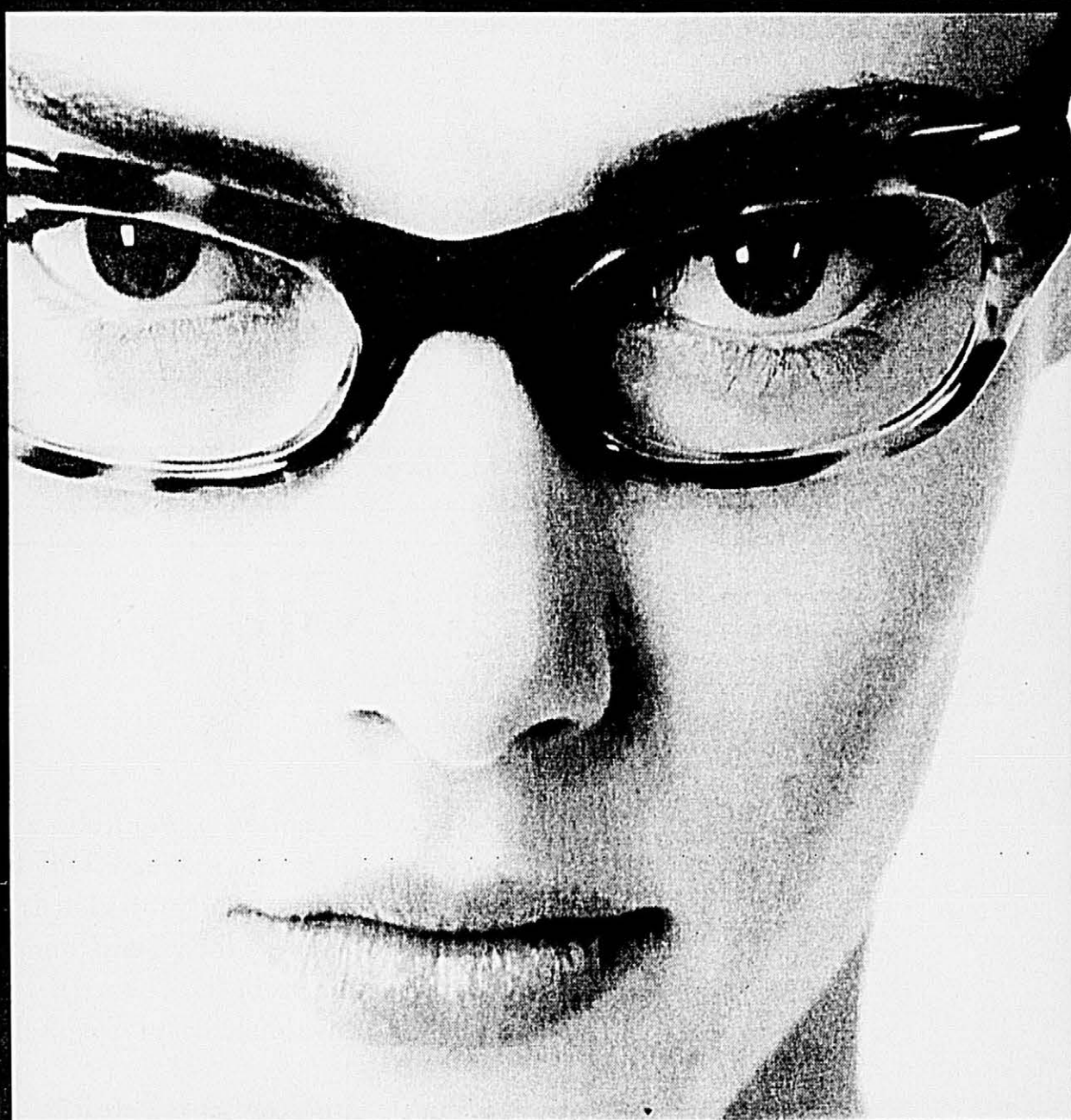
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Still Waiting for Daycare

Execs blame government, students ask questions

BY CHRISTOPHER NEEDLES

For the fourth semester in a row, McGill students have paid \$3 each for a non-exist.

The results of a 1997 referendum authorized McGill's Student Society to charge six dollars per year to each student for a daycare centre, to be opened in September of 1999. But while the daycare is still not open, students have continued to be charged for the facility.

But SSMU President Andrew Tischler says that the daycare did not open in September as planned because construction of the new student building was running behind schedule.

"There were no plans for it to be ready until the first full year the Student Services

major setback when the area was deemed to be in violation of provincial fire safety standards.

Tischler also said that SSMU was merely waiting upon approval from the provincial government on licensing issues. "We have provincial standards to meet," he said, "and [the province] takes a very long time."

Tischler, however, maintains that everything is going smoothly.

"The starting up fees are expensive," he explained, adding that the current fees are simply being collected in order to cover those costs. "There is no ethical problem. It shows a great commitment on behalf of the students of McGill that they are willing to pay for this service."

While Elana Baron, the external coordinator of the McGill Women's Union,

"People are a little worried," she said, adding that SSMU executives need to be more open about the process. "The daycare's progress is questionable, and we are left unaware."

Baron makes clear that the situation also goes beyond finance. She feels that the fact that there is no free daycare is a key explanation for why there are fewer women than men beyond the undergraduate level.

"Women are prohibited from pursuing the highest levels of education," by not having access to affordable daycare, said Baron. "Women need an extra support system to continue their education... and the community has made it clear they are willing to pay."

Baron pointed to the fact that an estimated 15 per cent of McGill students have children, and said that while the daycare remains unopened, these students are not getting the services they need. While Baron recognizes that opening a daycare is no simple task, she said she would like to see SSMU push a little harder to get things done in order to help out student parents.

Tamara Kochar, who campaigned for the SSMU Presidency this year with a platform to complete the daycare, agreed.

"They haven't made the daycare a priority," Kochar said. "The daycare was a promise that [the past two] executives have done nothing to follow through with." She pointed to the fact that SSMU paid \$5000 for a Daycare Commissioner who made a list of issues that SSMU has done nothing to resolve.

"There is no accountability," said Kochar. "I find it frustrating that SSMU pays people to do things and doesn't follow up."

Kochar is upset by the bureaucracy that she sees within the SSMU itself.

"The executives have a responsibility to follow up on what previous executives have started. These executives owe it to the students to continue projects even if it is not their own idea." She looked to SSMU to try to work to ensure the daycare is done for next fall. "There are a lot of students on campus who need the daycare. If we have the money and have the space we should just do it."

LAST CHANCE

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“ There are a lot of students on campus who need the daycare. If we have the money and have the space we should just do it. ”

Building was ready," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, we are right on schedule."

Space for the centre has been set aside in the new building, but the project faced a

called the SSMU's progress, "terrific," she said she has noticed a growing dissatisfaction with the way SSMU has dealt with the issue.



As many as 15 per cent of McGill students have children

news-briefs



ADMIN PROMISES NEW MUSIC BUILDING

Vice-Principal Academic Luc Vinet and VP Administration and Finance Morty Yalovsky promised that McGill's Music Faculty would receive a new building despite being omitted from the Quebec government's capital projects list for the year 2000.

Speaking after the province announced their annual budget — in which McGill is expected to receive an additional 14 to 16 million dollars — Yalovsky and Vinet said that the university

has an obligation to fund the project. Yalovsky confirmed later in an interview that McGill is committed to renewed investment in academic structure. Nevertheless, he warned that, "a new building is a massive commitment."

Sage Firman, the Music Representative to SSMU, also expressed his confidence in the administration to fulfill their promise. "I think that Luc Vinet is one of the best things that happened to McGill," he asserted. "He realizes that our faculty is in danger of doing without this building."

- David Podgorski

U OF T ENDS ANTI-SWEATSHOP PROTEST

TORONTO (CUP) - After 10 days holed up in the University of Toronto president's office in hopes of forcing the University to adopt a code of conduct for clothes bearing the school insignia, the Students Against Sweatshops reluctantly left their post.

The University refused to negotiate with the demonstrators until the office was freed.

But the students say their action can be considered victorious. "We're seeing it as a victory," said Derek Laventure, a cognitive science major who's looking forward to catching up on missed sleep.

During the entire occupation, the lights were left on 24 hours a day and all other power sources were cut. Over the last weekend the campus police blasted music into the office.

The occupiers unveiled an open letter signed by 17 notable labour specialists from across North America that stated U of T has no reason to stall in its inclusion of "living wage" in the code.

The code would be the first in Canada that would require all manufacturers dealing with the University to provide details on factory working conditions.

"It did a lot of good to put pressure on administration," said Laventure.

-Nicola Luksic



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THE MCGILL DAILY

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Breaking Up is Hard To Do

BY SAMIRA RAHMANI

Quebec's secession from Canada will be a difficult task, according to two veterans of Quebec politics.

Speaking to a small audience in the Arts building, James Tully, a political scientist from the University of Victoria and Claude Ryan, former leader of the Quebec Liberal party, addressed some of the social, political and legal aspects of Quebec's separation from Canada.

Tully, referring to the 1998 Supreme Court Ruling on Secession, discussed some of the main criteria that would need to be fulfilled for Quebec to separate. First, he said that citizens would need to have the will to do so. This would mean a clear majority on a clear question.

"It's not just an elite in Quebec that get to decide. It has to be based in popular support," he emphasized. He pointed out that neither of the referenda of 1980 or 1995 nor the Charlottetown Accord met this condition.

Once this first principle is met, Tully

said that the next hurdle is that of negotiation, which must occur with all members of the "bigger society" including not only federalists and sovereigntists, but also Native groups and francophones living outside of Quebec.

Ryan also addressed the 1998 ruling,

dum."

Ryan also presented what he saw as the prevailing feelings about secession in Canada and Quebec. He feels that though there definitely exist staunch federalists and sovereigntists, opinion polls show that two-thirds of Quebecers have a view that

lies in the middle of those two extremes. For Ryan, this means that many support the idea of a renewed federalism or a sovereignty

“It's not just an elite in Quebec that get to decide [if Quebec separates]. It has to be based on popular support.”

"From a legal point of view, the ruling was clearly favourable to the federal government's position," he said.

He felt that the decision was a justification to present a bill to Parliament that would allow legislators from other provinces to "severely restrain, and even eventually deny, the right of Quebec's National Assembly to conduct a referen-

with association.

Ryan also stressed the importance of inclusion and said that the public debate around this issue should not be an exercise for Quebecers only.

"We must be in constant touch with our partners not only in order to know and understand them, but also to benefit from their reactions," Ryan said.

Manitoba Students Rally Around Campus Paper

BY DAVE LEIBL

WINNIPEG (CUP) - Students at the University of Manitoba say student leaders on campus acted too aggressively when they passed a motion to defund and evict the Manitoban, the school's student paper.

"The motion seems to fulfil a small group's personal vendetta against the Manitoban," said Darrel Ronald, an architecture major, following a forum held by the student union.

On March 8, the University of Manitoba Students' Union voted in favour of dissolving the autonomy agreement between the union and the newspaper.

The motion stipulates the Manitoban will lose funding and support services from UMSU, and will be required to vacate its office space no later than April 8.

One week after the motion was passed, the student union scheduled several forums billed as an opportunity to assist in the creation of a new agreement with the paper.

But most students at the various forums - the first one began on March 14, with more planned in the coming days and weeks - showed little interest in working out a new agreement.

Instead, they asked student union President Steven Fletcher to explain why

UMSU had taken the drastic measure of terminating the agreement already in place.

Discussion was interrupted several times as students applauded demands for UMSU to overturn the motion.

Ronald, who has co-founded a group called Students at Large, says the student union's move to dissolve the agreement "assaults [students'] right to freedom of speech."

He says Students at Large wants student union councillors to reconsider the motion.

"We demand the immediate and complete reinstatement of the current autonomy agreement, given that UMSU presented and passed this motion both unjustifiably and illegitimately," Ronald said.

Although Fletcher rebuffed calls to restore the agreement, he says students who oppose the motion aren't being ignored.

"Their voice was absolutely heard," he said. "We're going to try and incorporate their point-of-view into the agreement."

Fletcher says he needs more input to accurately gauge students' opinion of the Manitoban and the autonomy agreement.

He added that five more forums have been scheduled throughout campus.

Fletcher, however, also says he must listen to the concerns of several faculty

associations student presidents, and a student group named "The Association for the Improvement of the Manitoban" or AIM.

Romel Dhalla, a member of AIM, says councillors have made a "good move" in deciding to terminate the autonomy agreement.

Dhalla - last year's faculty of arts student president - said last year's Manitoban staff attempted to "demonize" and "discredit" him, and believes a new agreement could prevent a similar incident from reoccurring.

"I think the [current] autonomy agreement doesn't provide for certain restrictions on Toban staff who go too far," he said.

Dhalla ran in last year's student union election and lost.

Manitoban Editor-in-Chief Kevin Matthews says he is glad to see students voicing their concerns over the motion.

"UMSU maintains that they were representing University of Manitoba students in trying to contravene the agreement," he said. "From what I've seen of these forums, students are letting UMSU know that they weren't representing their interests at all."

"UMSU wants suggestions, but what they are getting is an expression of students' shock and mistrust of their actions."

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Is Campus Safety a Problem?

Disciplinary cases still few, but tally is rising

BY JON BRICKER, BEN ERRETT, AND JASON CHOW

The library doors are locked. Gert's is closed. The night is silent. And there's not a person in sight on campus.

Sound scary? For many students, it isn't.

But the stats tell a different story.

According to a report made by Senate from the Comité on Student Discipline, violent incidents on campus are on the rise.

"There was an increase from 11 incidents to 19 in non-academic offences," said Dean of Students Rosalie Jukier, referring to the rise in Article 8 offences between 1997-98 and 1998-99. Article 8 offences under the Student Code of Conduct include assaults and dangerous or threatening activities.

"I am comfortable enough in saying that it's not a blip. I am seeing it continuing into the 1999-2000 year, with even more allegations under Article 8," she later told The Daily.

And while the incidents still seem few in number, Jukier says she's taking the numbers seriously.

cafeteria," said Jukier. "There's no one trend, so it's very difficult to know what to do about it."

RANDOM ACTS

In September, first-year student Jean Edelstein was returning to her Bishop Mountain Hall residence with a friend, late one morning. As she passed Royal Victoria Hospital, which houses a treatment centre for the mentally ill, she made eye contact with a man in a surgical mask, pacing on the sidewalk.

"I probably smiled or something. I was new to Montreal and didn't really think twice," she says. The next thing she knew, she'd been knocked hard onto the sidewalk as the man stood beside her, shouting.

"I was pretty shaken up by the whole thing, but it happened in broad daylight. My inclination was to not report it, that it would be perceived as weak or whiny."

In the end, she called McGill Security. For Edelstein, they were a comfort. They interviewed her and her friend, took a description of the man who had harassed

pounded on his door, shouting things like "faggot" and "pillow biter."

But for many students, the fact that they hear little about violent incidents on campus, means the problem is not a big.

"I don't worry about things like walking home alone at night," said first-year student Carolyn Vitch. "I see emergency phones and light posts on campus and in the ghetto, so I suppose, if I ever was in trouble, I'd use them. But generally, campus seems like a pretty safe place."

And for Director of McGill Security Steve Paquin, while there's no such thing as absolute safety on campus or anywhere, the rising number of reports may not be such a negative sign.

"The same dangers exist at McGill as anywhere else," Paquin said, "but maybe students are starting to become more aware of their rights and are reporting things more than they did in the past. If students feel their rights are being threatened on campus, they'll make it known."

Paquin believes that students are threatening one another's security less than usual these days.

"At the start of the semester, there's usually a lot of partying and binge drinking. That's when we get a lot of complaints, but that's happened a lot less this year. This semester's students seem to be a more studious group than in past semesters."

AN UNCOMFORTABLE CULTURAL EXPLANATION

According to Paquin, however, being at university and away from home is often a trying experience. And for many students, that means manifesting their anxiety in ways that are threatening to themselves or other students.

Paquin thinks that many students are culturally out-of-place and express their anxiety in a way that Canadians aren't used to.

"We see a lot of stress on students to succeed, especially those from different countries. Sometimes the lack of contact

with family members or others of the same nationality puts added pressure on students and they can't handle it. What's tolerated in their country, may not be tolerated at McGill," Paquin explained. "Culture has a lot to do with it."

Paquin says that campus programs like Walksafe, Drivesafe, and the 24-hour Sexual Assault Centre go a long way to

these programs and Security. But therein, perhaps, lies an even more telling problem.

"There is a problem of human resources. We'd like to do more, but to provide more services, I need more bodies," he said.

But since the university began pulling its purse strings tighter, Paquin says, his department has felt the impact.

"We're still talking about a handful of cases, but to me, even one assault by a student against a fellow student or against a professor is enough."

helping students feel safer on campus, and that, in his opinion, McGill Security does a great job in making campus the relatively safe place that is.

"Every little bit makes it better," he said, speaking to the importance of the student-run programs. "We certainly have no more thefts or assaults than any other campus, and [Security] is doing a marvelous job with the resources we have."

Jukier agrees. "We are certainly acting immediately. When there is a complaint, we immediately contact our counselling service, our mental health service, to get in there and help. We always inform Security immediately, and they act immediately. They do call in the police when it is necessary."

"I think the message we try to send is that this is totally unacceptable behaviour and it is not tolerated by the university. The university acts promptly and toughly when these things happen."

A PROBLEM OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Like Paquin, she thinks that efforts to promote safety have gone well, given the investment the university is making in

"Security was required to take its share of the cuts," he said and pointed to a review of McGill's security services earlier this year that called for more supervisors and more patrols.

"I don't feel that security has been compromised, but I think there is a lack of communication right now between Security and programs like Walksafe."

While Paquin says that Security is doing a good job, he thinks that more resources, would let him build better links between Security and other campus programs and those who use them, to find out what are the problems that need to be addressed.

"There's more we'd like to be doing, but how long can we continue to try to do more? I don't know."

And among all this discussion, there also lies the question of how many cases have gone unreported. The report stated that Disciplinary Officers dealt with 19 cases of students committing physical abuses, harassment, and dangerous activity. However, it does not state how many were committed by non-students. And we can only guess the number of cases that the authorities never knew about.

"I don't feel that security has been compromised, but I think there is a lack of communication right now between Security and programs like Walksafe."

"We're still talking about a handful of cases, but to me, even one assault by a student against a fellow student or against a professor is enough."

What's scariest of all, she says, is that there's little that seems to tie these incidents together — no specific time of day, no one spot on campus where stepped up security would mean a much safer campus.

"It's not like they're at night versus during the day, in the library versus in the

her, and encouraged her to also call the police. She did. They hardly cared.

And her story is not the only one. Earlier this year, notices around campus alerting women about a man who loitered in the McGill ghetto area of Milton and Parc, trying to lure women to his apartment, instilled fear into many female students. And in a letter to The Daily last month, a student told the tale of being chased home by individuals who

ARTS UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY

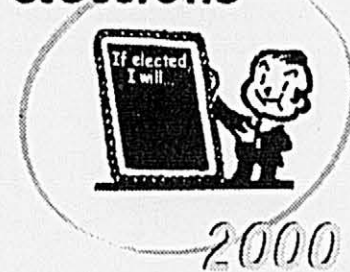
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Faculty Associations Election Results

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Be Stupid Without Watching

comment



BY TAL PINCHEVSKY

Ah, yes television. The last remaining bastion of serenity. This structural mosaic of tubes and dials allows our minds to cease operations and most other internal functions to snap shut like a bear trap.

Naturally, this rest acts as a vital depressant to our otherwise whirlwind daily schedules (come on, we're students, let's be honest with ourselves). However, although some of you might not care, there is a sad ploy being facilitated by television on the part of those people that we all share a mutual hatred for.

A small handful of those dreaded megacorporations control a vast majority of the global information that flows indiscriminately through all our televisions. As we all might have suspected, this cartel consciously acts in censoring all opinions that might disavow the interests and profitability of these righteous overseers.

It is in this vein that those fabulous culture jammers at Adbusters have organized the latest installment of the annual TV Turn-Off-Week. From April 22 to 28, you are all encouraged to shut off your televisions and leave them off. By a million people worldwide leaving their screens blank, it is a powerful gesture of consumer sov-

eignty and, according to Adbusters, "Will lead to bigger things down the road." This having been said, there are a

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plethora of additional variables that might facilitate some of you to participate completely involuntarily.

The majority of us will still be in the middle of exams, inhibiting the amount of free time we usually have to sit on a couch and stare at a glowing light. Furthermore, those of us that will have finished exams, will be forced to revel in the successful (or not) completion of another year at McGill. As such, watching television would violate the fundamental ethos of this celebration. Don't watch television, go out, drink, be outrageously irresponsible, wake up in another time zone with no memory, a raging hangover, and an unrecognizable engagement ring! After all, you've earned it.

I know the third week of April might seem relatively far off, but, remember, final exams once seemed long-term as well. So, whether you are intentionally or unintentionally joining a cause to intentionally or unintentionally join the ranks of a group of young malcontents reveling in their mutual hatred for all things corporate. Just remember to leave one screen blank for a week in favour of leaving another light alive and kicking.

The Daily will announce the results of the literary contest on April 3.

THE MCGILL DAILY

from the



10 years ago: On March 27, 50,000 students from Quebec universities and CEGEPs announced that they would continue with their two-week old strike to protest provincial tuition hike. They also swore to tie up education ministry offices and post anti-hike banners across downtown Montreal. The Daily repeated. Despite the pleas, Liberal Education Minister Claude Ryan announced he intended to go ahead with hikes as planned.

15 years ago: On March 28, The Daily reported on a visit to McGill by controversial

Montreal abortion doctor Henry Morgentaler. Morgentaler earned "deafening applause," just two nights earlier, he had visited Dalhousie university in Halifax and been welcomed by protesters and placards calling him a "murderer"

"The other side is desperate... When a movement uses such violent tactics, it's a sign of desperation and moral bankruptcy," he told The Daily.

20 years ago: On April 2, journalists at a conference for the Centre for Investigative Journalism described the situation of journalism in the province.

"When I started as a journalist ten years ago, francophone reporters were playing a role in society. It came out in their articles that they thought there should be hospitals for poor people as well as rich people, and schools were for everyone."

Another spoke of market influences in the press: "I fear the eighties will be an era of bright news and boosterism."

MORE TITANS OF LITERATURE BATTLING MOVIE MONSTERS!



McLOUSE by Steve Barker

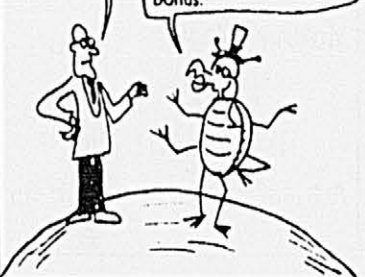
Could it be? A SSMU-free McLouise in...

"High Brow Hystaria"

The Daily's extensive polling of student groups has revealed that kids want to read Lewis Lapham-style intelligent commentary on socioeconomics, a topic which McLouise has thusfar purposely avoided to pack in more inane turtleneck jokes. So here goes...

Hey McLouise, where's your RRSP money at?

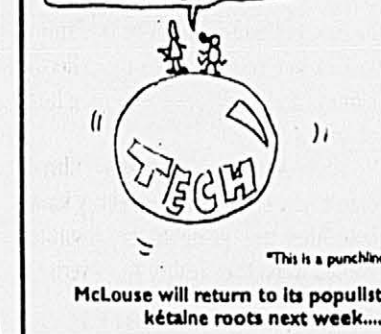
I have it in a strategic combination of stocks and bonds.



The TSE just broke 10,000 points, and anything with the word dot-com tacked on the end is a ticket to the good life. We're in a never-ending golden age of economic prosperity.



Problem with golden ages is that everyone complains about how yellow everything is.





Photograph taken near the Leacock Building last Monday.

May the Biggest Moron Win

comment



BY DAVE STILES

EDMONTON (CUP) - Some earth-shattering electoral information has recently come to light: George W Bush is considered the candidate most likely to cheat on his taxes and/or golf score.

Meanwhile, 40 per cent of Americans would prefer killing themselves over being forced to spend a week alone with nerdy Democrat Al Gore.

To add salt to the wound, fully one-third of Americans expressed the opinion that Gore must have had a tough time getting a date for the prom.

Such are the results of a recent American political survey published on a website for Young Republicans. The survey revealed that our southern neighbours view Al Gore as an intelligent but dorky loser.

It also showed that while many Americans see George W Bush as mentally incompetent and deceitful, they still view him as the best choice for president.

Considering the complete lack of political astuteness that the majority of Americans have demonstrated in recent months, this does not come as a surprise.

Of course, it should be absolutely shocking that Bush has come as far as he has, but fate seems to be determined to kick our neighbours in the collective kidneys and to rip out the beating heart of America.

And if Americans felt that Bill Clinton didn't have enough foreign policy know-how, they are going to be absolutely floored when they realize the severity of

Bush's ignorance.

The media has constantly embarrassed him, yet nobody seems to pick up on the obvious logic that a lack of knowledge is not conducive to a good presidency.

Bush was born into a privileged family, wasted valuable educational opportunities by drinking and partying his way through Yale University, and clearly used

exposed.

In the final analysis, the whole situation can only be ascribed to a strange combination of mass-illogic and style worship.

Gore is a nerd, but friendly old George "dubya" is a stylish candidate with a lot of smoke and mirrors.

This may seem bad, but there is a silver lining to go along with the dark cloud

of American politics: a full 25 per cent of Americans surveyed said that if they were offered a motorcycle ride home by the various presidential candidates, they would prefer to walk.

That may just be a subconscious expression of apathy, but I'd like to think that it exposes at least a brief glimmer of

rebellion against the Republican practice of picking the least intelligent candidate.



Al Gore



George W. Bush

political connections to avoid serving active duty in the Vietnam War.

Incredibly though, the important state primaries have all gone in favour of Bush, perplexing both Democrats and intelligent Republicans.

Why, they all ask, would the Republican party select the dumbest candidate they could find when a superior alternative was available?

In fairness to Bush, Dan Quayle was also interested in the job. Sadly, he often appears to have barely enough brain function to qualify as a mammal.

It would seem plausible to suggest that powerful interests are paying the Republicans to lose the election, except for the small matter of Bush's substantial popularity.

It's also difficult to see what interests would do such a thing, with the possible exception of the 1-900 numbers which experienced a rise in business after the playful infidelities of Bill Clinton were

letters



McGILL'S NOT ALL BAD

Le D lit Fran ais latest contribution to the Kuhner debate ("Le Declin de McGill," 21 March 2000) makes some astonishing claims, among them the notion that Mr. Kuhner's departure "illustrates perfectly the decline of education at McGill, and that "McGill has forgotten its primary mission: achievement of excellence and responsiveness to students' needs."

The latest edition of *The Student's Guide to Canadian Universities* paints a somewhat different picture; the students who compiled this insider guide state that "McGill has one of the most respected faculties in the country" with "impressive credentials, degrees from Ivy League schools or reputable universities overseas and within Canada." Furthermore, "most professors, aside from teaching, are highly engaged in research, adding to the calibre of the faculty. In terms of student needs, the guide reports that "the new McGill student often feels alienated and lost in the shuffle. Classes in the first year are often held in 500+ auditoriums. The bureaucracy is large and impenetrable.... But eventually, an independent rhythm sets in, and the McGill student plods on at school and finds a niche. Classes eventually get smaller and you begin to adopt the atmosphere as your own." If the situation at McGill were as dire as Mr. Kuhner would have us believe, students would be voting with their feet and this has not happened—McGill

enrolments remain steady.

Therefore, inciting McGill students to adopt the radical attitude of the 60s (as Mr. Kelebay does in your interview) may be a futile endeavour. The tactics used in the "affluent 60s" (and The McGill Daily played a crucial role in bringing about the reforms of University governance which resulted from the 1966-70 protests) were adequate for their time: in other words, McGill students have been there, done that. Students of the new millennium are learning to fight the current budget cuts (and its most nefarious result—diminishing teaching staff) in what has proven to be a more effective fashion: through various intelligently planned pressure tactics, constructive contacts with government and private industry reps sympathetic to the plight of our universities, as well as some old-fashioned money-raising campaigns.

It takes more effort and skill to participate in a phonathon to raise money for McGill than to manufacture "crisis at McGill" by airing our dirty laundry in the local newspaper. It may be that the notion of " sprit de corps" is a very quaint one to the individuals who bemoan the present situation at McGill, but the students who complied the guide quoted above would have us believe that one can still get a first-rate education here. And that, as always, is what matters the most to students who choose McGill over other universities.

Militsa Krivokapich
BA, MA (McGill)

LETTERS AND HYDE PARKS ARE WELCOMED ON THE DAILY'S COMMENTARY PAGES. LETTERS SHOULD BE UNDER 300 WORDS, WHILE HYDE PARKS SHOULD BE UNDER 500 WORDS. PLEASE DROP THEM OFF IN SHATNER B-03 OR EMAIL THEM TO MCGILLDAILY@HOTMAIL.COM

Daily Staff Elections

Elections for the 2000-2001 Daily Editorial Board will occur at 5:30 pm on Thursday, April 6. All positions are open.

To run for a position, stop by The Daily office in Shatner B-03 and follow the instructions on the Misc. Board.

Must be Daily staff to run. All students who have completed 6 articles or photographs and/or 3 features and/or 6 three-hour units of production time qualify as staff. Join us, children, in our never-ending search for a new utopia. Also, bring us Timbits.

THE MCGILL DAILY

WRITE FOR
THE MCGILL DAILY

NEWS:
MONDAY 4:00 TO 6:00PM
CULTURE:
FRIDAY 3:30 PM
PHOTOGRAPHY:
MONDAY 5:00PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!
ALL MEETINGS IN SHATNER B-03

The Female Orgasm: Batteries Not Included

BY RINA CALABRESE

MONTREAL (CUP) - We all sat around in a circle, nervous, tense, hesitantly waiting for the Sex Toys 101 workshop to get underway. Except for one woman, we were all sex toy virgins.

All our eyes were transfixed on Carlyle Jansen, our facilitator. Jansen is the owner of Good For Her, a sex shop based in Toronto. A large plastic box sat at her feet holding untold apparatuses of pleasure.

After a quick introduction in which Jansen explained that one of the reasons she got into this field was because she was unable to orgasm until age 26, she asked us each to explain why we were there.

"Without getting too deep, too quickly," said one woman with impressive candor, "I'm 27, and I have never experienced an orgasm."

Another woman easily confessed, "I love playing with sex toys and I thought I'd come see if you had anything I haven't seen before."

Dipping into the large plastic box, Jansen brought out an assortment of vibrators and dildos. Explaining what each one does, she then passed them around and we each got to feel the vibrations for ourselves.

The vibrators each had their own special name: Blue Gigolo, Red Dolphin, Blue Mini Massager with Rabbit Ears, Nexus, and Clear Bump and Grind.

"This one is made from a new material called cyber skin," said Jansen, holding up an incredibly life-like looking vibrator. It felt creepily like real skin as I squished it in the palm of my hand.

The purpose of the workshop was to familiarize women with sex toys so they don't feel so inhibited when they go into sex shops.

Most women who've never tried a vibrator don't know what type will work best for them and they're too embarrassed to ask the salesperson any questions, so they might end up choosing the wrong one.

And for many women who are non-organic, a vibrator is often the first (and perhaps only) way for them to reach orgasm. So choosing the right one is incredibly important. Rabbit Ears or no Rabbit Ears could make all the difference.

Jansen herself got interested in sex toys because she was non-organic and it was a vibrator that brought her to orgasm for the first time.

"There's a lot of shame out there around using sex toys," she says.

"There's a lot of shame around non-organic women being able to orgasm

from vibrators alone. So what I wanted to do was help women feel that it's okay if they don't orgasm, that they can try a vibrator and see if that gets them there and to use the right kind of one, not just a small teeny one that doesn't have power because you're afraid to use something big and then all of sudden that's not what's going to work."

So why does a vibrator often work when all else fails? "Power," says Jansen.

"There's some of us who are what I call hardwired. We just need a lot of stimulation."

A vibrator has so much power, she says, that you feel that if it's strong enough it just forces you to have an orgasm.

"The more you do it the more it's like 'oh, okay,'" she says.

"But it's a journey. Sometimes it takes practice and sometimes it's just a matter of your body learning how to do it. It's like learning to walk, after a while your body knows how to go from one step to the next and you don't have to think about it, it just happens. It just takes some of us a while to get there."

Sometimes, reveals Jansen, she is approached by the non-organic to per-

sonally help them reach orgasm. "I have some clients that I work with who are non-organic," she says. "They've tried everything, they've seen sex

they don't know what ejaculation is; and, they generally don't know their own bodies.

"A lot of it is about confidence, a lot of it is about technique so that they know how to do it properly so they can feel more confident," she says.

Jansen admits she feels much more confident as a lover if she has some techniques under her belt, so to speak. Her biggest fear is that she'll be trying to turn someone on and end up looking stupid, so the knowledge of technique gives her power and confidence.

Self-image also plays a huge part, she says. Our society is inundated with images of the perfect body and women invest huge amounts of energy and money into trying to conform to that ideal.

There's also a certain image that's portrayed in a lot of pornography videos, contends Jansen, where women are there for men's sexual satisfaction.

"If you compare how long the men are performing oral sex on the women versus how long the women are performing oral sex on the men, there's a vast difference," she says. "The guys go down on the women for 30 seconds and then the women are on the guys for 10 minutes. I think that to a certain extent men get a twisted image as to what gives

women pleasure through that and through other very subtle images that happen in advertising and in the media."

Women who walk into her store are surrounded by images of all types of women, "not just skinny young white ones who are generally those who are portrayed as the only ones who are sexy."

This makes her customers feel that they too can be sexy and it makes a huge difference in increasing their confidence in other areas of their lives because their sexual confidence affects their overall self-esteem.

"It's not just that sexuality is the key to feeling confident in all areas of our lives," says Jansen, "but it's one of those keys that can potentially affect other aspects of how we feel about ourselves."

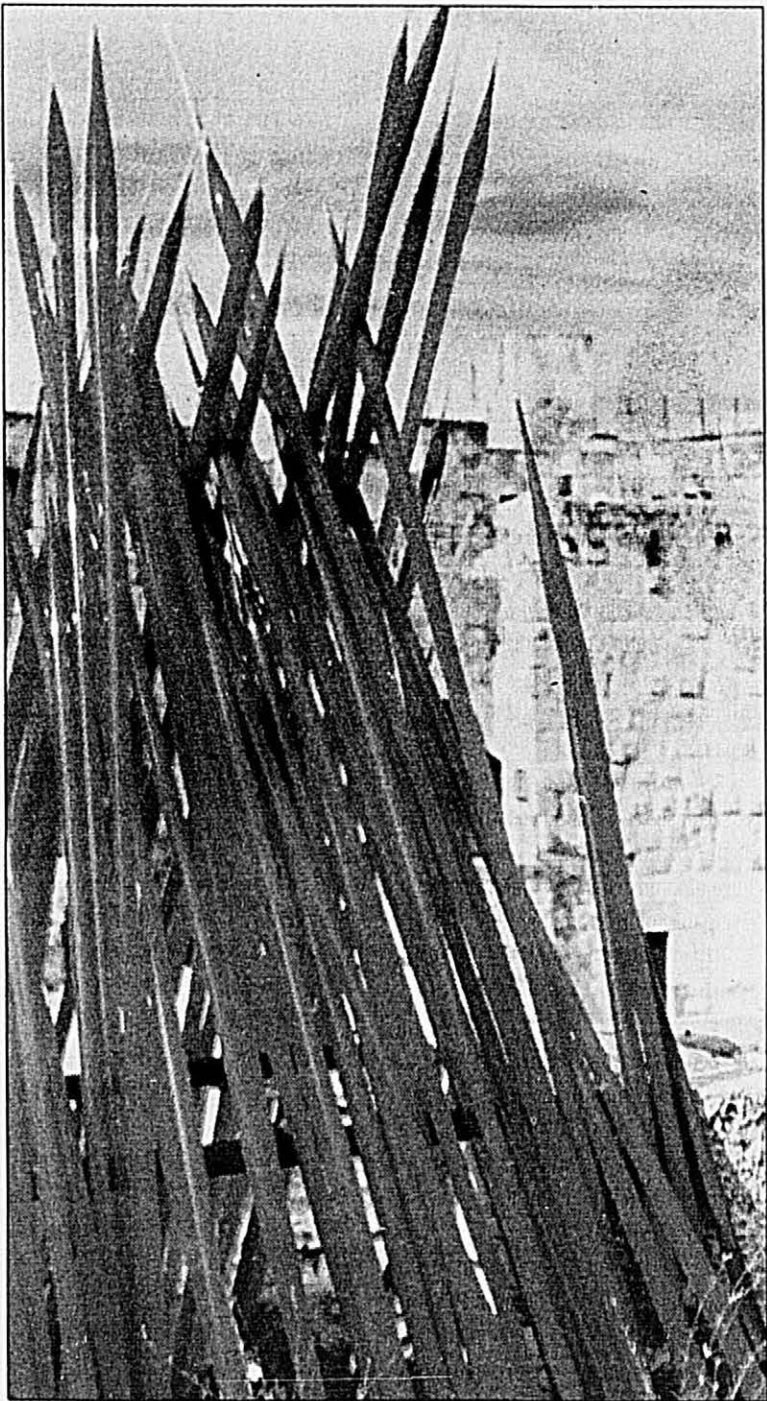
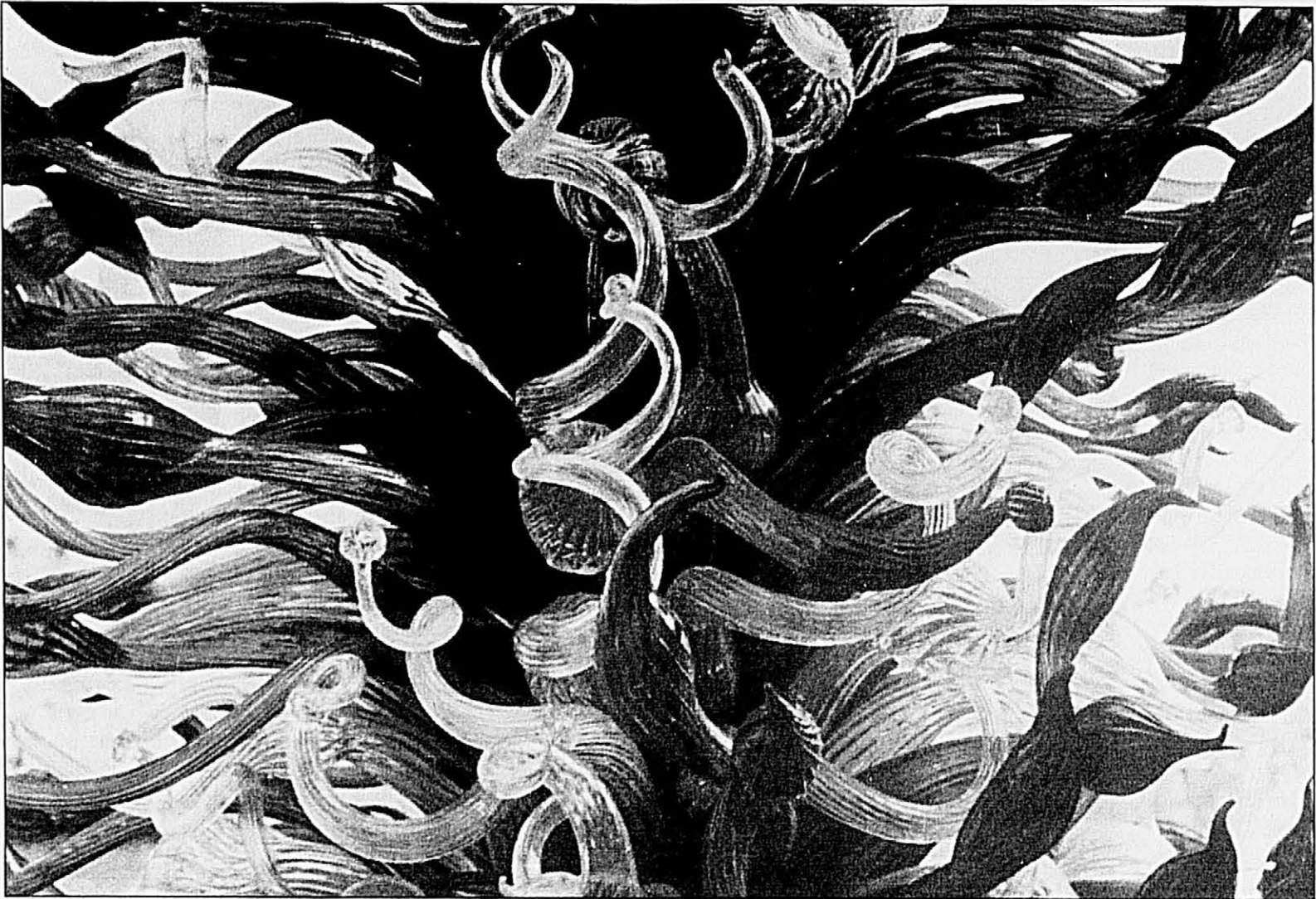


A wide variety of sex toys; all to pleasure women

Brie O'Keefe

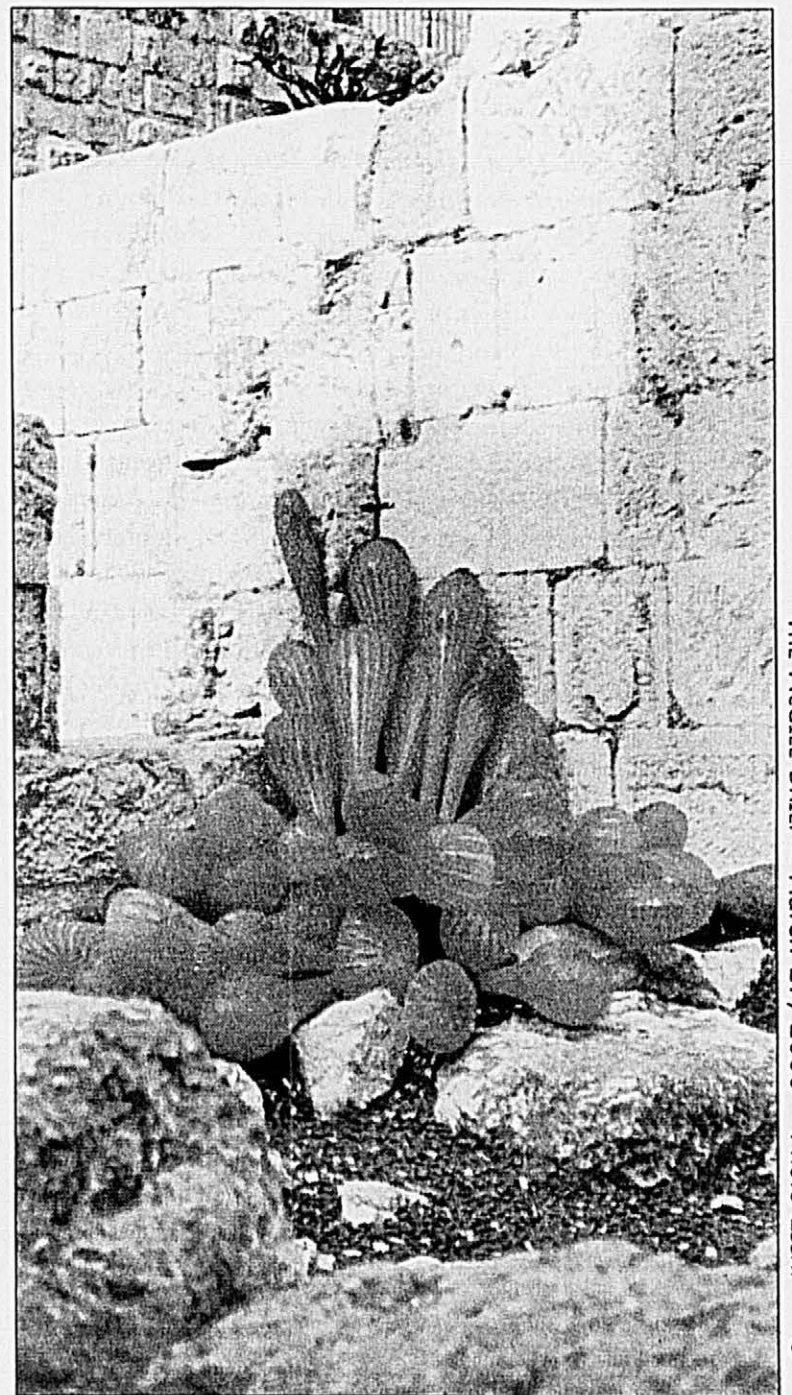
History Meets Art in Jerusalem

PHOTOS BY Yael Friedman



Dale Chihuly, who did much to bring glassblowing into the mainstream art world, recently prepared a series of installations in Israel. The exhibit, titled "Chihuly in the Light of Jerusalem 2000," coordinated blown glass pieces with the architecture and vegetation of the Tower of David, an ancient military fortress which functions as a museum of the history of Jerusalem. Chihuly worked with the support of glassblowing teams from Israel and his hometown of Seattle to create the 15 pieces displayed. Placed outdoors, primarily in the museum's courtyard, the glass complimented its surroundings beautifully and added a surprising splash of color to the tower's stone walls.

- Emily Rosenberg



Poor Hardest Hit by Environmental Collapse

BY HAMISH COWLEY

MONTREAL (CUP) - The world's environment is worsening and the biggest losers are poor countries, said delegates at a recent conference of activists from across the Americas.

The three-day gathering, held at the Université de Montréal, discussed links between injustice, ecological collapse and the global economy.

Delegates from North and South America focused on the effect of environmental damage on the poor and the powerless.

"There's no water left to drink in El Salvador," said Rosendo Mauricio Serrano, an environmental activist from Central America. "Sometimes you get earthworms out of the tap. The [logging] companies call this drinkable water."

Mauricio said logging in El Salvador has destroyed the country's water table and polluted its rivers and lakes.

"A large part of the territory can no longer support life," he said.

Mauricio added that between the country's environmental collapse and its civil war, one-fifth of El Salvador's population has left the country in the span of a few years.

He said native populations, who are the poorest segment of society, are the hardest hit.

Marie Mazalto, from environmental activist group Eau-Secours, said the first

world has no reason to feel safe about its supply of drinking water.

She said many countries have sold off their water supply system to private companies, causing the price to rise.

Lucia Antonio Montero, a native activist from southern Mexico, said large corporations, with the help of the Mexican government, are now pushing native farm-

ers off their land and cutting down the region's forests.

"The government has privatized land that belonged to the community," she said. "[The new owners] plant eucalyptus trees, which destroy the soil."

Montero described the situation as a "debauchery."

"It's a question of life or death," she

said. "The destruction of our forests and rivers matter to all our peoples. [Canada and the U.S.] invests the most money into these companies."

For those who want to change corporate policies, Toronto activist François Meloche suggested making a small investment in the corporation doing the damage.

"For three dollars, I become a share-

holder," he said. "Then I can present the point of view of [protesters]."

Meloche said activists should invest in companies that are environmentally and socially conscious, to encourage other companies to do the same.

"It is possible to buy 'ethical funds' at a Caisse Desjardins," he said. "Anyone can buy these at any bank, for \$20 a share."

EVENTS

Monday, March 27

Glen Murray, the mayor of Winnipeg, will be giving a lecture entitled "The Murder of Canadian Cities," at 6 pm in room 767 of the Hall building, Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve W.

Students concerned about the quality of education at McGill are invited to speak their minds and hear faculty members at an open forum. Speakers will include Professors Jeffrey Kuhner, Gil Troy, A.R. Riggs, and Susanne Morton. The forum will begin at 5 pm, in McConnell Engineering, room 204.

SSMU and QPIRG McGill will be holding a "Festival of the Environment" from 10 am to 4 pm in Leacock 232. Keynote speaker Robert Benoit will be speaking at 3 pm.

Tuesday, March 28

The School of Community and Public Affairs, the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, and the Institute for Management and Community Development invite you to a roundtable discussion on the recently published *A l'école du Pouvoir*.

"Race and Science in the Nineteenth Century: Darwin's Feugians," a lecture by Minakshi, will be held at the Centre for Developing Area Studies, 3715 Peel St., seminar room 100, at 12:30 pm.

QPIRG McGill will host a panel discussion on "The Future of Animals in Medical Research" at 7 pm, 855 Sherbrooke St. W., Leacock 232. \$3 for students, \$5 general. Tickets are available in advance. For information, phone 398-7432.

Montreal Mobilization's working group on the upcoming IMF/World Bank protest (Washington DC, April 16), is holding planning meetings, every Tuesday, 7 pm at the Canadian Federation of Students, 1242 Mackay.

Thursday, March 30

The Centre for Developing Area Studies will be hosting a seminar by Marie-Nathalie LeBlanc entitled "Between Ethnicity, Religion and Citizenship: Young Muslims in Côte d'Ivoire." 12:30 pm, seminar room 100, 3715 Peel St.

There will be a screening of "Pressure Point, Inside the Montreal Blockade" a film by Malcom Guy, followed by a panel discussion. St-James Church, 1435 City Councillors. There is a suggested donation of \$10, which

will go to the Urban Ecology Centre.

Friday, March 31

There will be a screening of "The Pillow Book" by Peter Greenway at 8:15 pm, at Concordia University, Hall Building, room H415. Psychoanalysis to follow.

Save the Children is holding a bazaar in the Shatner building, room 107. If you have any things to donate, drop them off at the bake sales on March 20 or 22 in the lobby of the Leacock building.

Saturday, April 1

There will be a sitar recital with Shujaat Husain Khan and Sandeep Das at the Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec, 1700 St-Denis. 7 pm, \$15.

CANADIAN STUDIES: TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT IN 2000-2001

106-200A Introduction to the Study of Canada (3 credits) An overview of approaches to the study of Canada, including economic, political, historical and cultural dimensions. **Prof. Mary MacKinnon**

106-202B Canadian Cultures: Context and Issues (3 credits) A survey course tracing the history of Canadian cultures from the middle of the 19th century to the present through literature, drama, art and the mass media. **Mr. David McKnight and Prof. Jane Everett**

106-300A Topics in Canadian Studies I: Nationalisms in Canada (3 credits) A study of theories and experience of ethnic, socio-political, economic and cultural nationalism in Canada, and the impact of nationalism on the shaping and evolution of Confederation. **Prof. Desmond Morton**

106-301A Topics in Canadian Studies II: Understanding Western Canada (3 credits) This interdisciplinary course will attempt to "understand" the West by examining ways through which we have come to "see" it, using cultural sources ranging from reminiscences and memoirs to novels, art, and film. **Prof. Robert A.J. McDonald, Seagram Visiting Chair**

106-303B Topics in Canadian Studies III: Canada's Official Language Minorities: History and Demography (3 credits) This course looks at the importance of Canada's official language minorities: the Anglophone in Quebec, the Francophone in the rest of Canada. **Dr. Jack Jedwab**

106-401B Canadian Studies Seminar I: Politics and People in Canada (3 credits) An interdisciplinary look at democracy in Canada since Confederation, exploring electoral competition at all three levels of government, with reference to the role of region, language, religion, class, economics and technology in the evolution of citizen effectiveness, institutions and values since Confederation. **Prof. Desmond Morton**

106-403A Representing Material Culture: Studying the Canadian Past through Media, Museums and Art Gallery Exhibitions (3 credits) This course examines 20th century Canadian public exhibitions, featuring documents, photographs, film, fine and decorative arts, and how they may reveal historical truth and/or create myths about Canada's past. **Dr. Jane Cook**

106-406B Canadian Studies Seminar VI: Canada's Military Experience (3 credits) An interdisciplinary seminar on Canada's military experience since Confederation with reference to social, economic and cultural factors, French-English relations and Canada's international relations expressed through military alliances and operations. **Prof. Desmond Morton**

101-361A The Canadian West to 1905 (3 credits) The development of what is now the Canadian West from the 17th century to the entry of Saskatchewan and Manitoba into confederation. Topics include: culture contact between native and European, the fur trade, entry of the West into confederation and its evolution from colonial to provincial status. **Prof. Robert A.J. McDonald, Seagram Visiting Chair**

The Institute offers major and minor concentrations in Canadian Studies.

For more information, visit our web site <www.arts.mcgill.ca/programs/misc> or pick up brochure with all the course and program details at the Institute.

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You Are Here Not Quite There

NTS graduating class presents MacIvor's latest play

BY PAUL REEVE

Last weekend, this year's graduating class at the National Theatre School presented Daniel MacIvor's latest work, entitled *You Are Here*, a script he developed in concert with others at NTS.

My guess is that Daniel MacIvor has seen the words "disturbing," "cynical," and "darkly comic" applied to his work far too many times during the decade and a half of his career in Canadian theatre. But it's undeniable: though the Cape Breton-born playwright has a hell of a sense of humour, the vision of everyday life seen in many of his plays, including, among others, *House*, *Here Lies Henry*, and his recent critical success *Monster*, is consistently bleak.

The plays are marked by a preoccupation with human pettiness and selfishness, the banality and futility of the everyday, and death. Redemption does not figure prominently in Daniel MacIvorland.

You Are Here follows the adult life of Alison, a smart, vulnerable woman of indeterminate age. Her self-conscious monologues, addressed directly to the audience, are dreamily interwoven with episodes drawn from various periods in her life.

We're introduced to various people she has known: her best friend Richard (Jonathan Eliot), with whom she shares a mutual love of unacknowledged depth; and her husband Jerry (Luke Kirby). Alison

struggles to find meaning in her relationships and to avoid being trapped by mediocrity and "niceness." But she's frustrated everywhere she turns. She lets herself be drawn into marrying Jerry, only to be upset when he grows cold and sullen. In an attempt to revive their love and build something worthwhile, she cashes in on favours she is owed, and gets a friend to direct a production of a screenplay Jerry has written. All goes awry.

The movie is a flop, and Jerry has an affair with the star. Things continue to worsen for MacIvor's floundering script and for Alison, who gets involved with a drug abuser. Her friend Richard is a lost soul, and ends up committing suicide, leaving Alison essentially alone in her terrible situation.

I want to give Daniel MacIvor more credit than this particular play deserves. I've often found that his plays display sharp insights into the sources of human weakness. But in this case he gives us what looks for all the world like a dose of sophomore old-school psychology.

We meet Alison's mother, who we learn was somewhat distant when she was rais-

ing Alison. When she tells the childhood anecdote from which the play's title is derived, the script hits an almost tiresomely familiar MacIvor note, highlighting yet



Playwright Daniel MacIvor kicks off a new performance at the National Theatre School

again the prevalent, basic self-centredness of human beings. The play's relatively large cast is a departure for MacIvor, who has most often written shows for one or only a few actors. He sticks to comfortable ground, though, setting Alison out against all the other characters and using them as

a kind of human background. There's a certain logic to this arrangement, since the script so strongly emphasises Alison's attempts to make sense of what she's gone through. The play is built around her own look at the events of her life.

But this doesn't fully excuse the fact that most of the other characters embody simple stereotypes — the self-absorbed glamour magazine editor, the vacuous movie star, and the abusive drug dealer boyfriend (a role performed flawlessly by Allan Hawco, for what it's worth).

Amy Rutherford was alternately funny and pitiable as the hapless Alison. Luke Kirby turned in the play's most convincing performance as Alison's psychologist husband Jerry. Kirby is an extremely talented actor — you can expect to see more of him on the Canadian or international stage in the next few years. Alison's scattered and increasingly troubled best friend Richard is played earnestly and amusingly by Jonathan Eliot.

This is clearly not one of MacIvor's best scripts. It has some very funny moments, but it has a scattered, shallow feeling, and occasionally awkwardly displays his tendency toward unconvincing philosophical chatter.

Though in recent interviews he claims to be mellowing out, this play is still more or less par for the Daniel MacIvor course: a cynical, disturbing, and darkly comic work.

CULT.HIT

GLOSS
(NOT LIP)

BY TYLER HARGREAVES

The magazine publishing boom has finally given rise to a magazine that speaks to a lost generation — one that has lost its voice.

Letters in the second issue say "I'm sick of being the lost demographic." This magazine's content is all slanted in one relatively clear direction. It aims to relieve the small amount of net income available to this unrecognized generation. The focus of underground, unfairly treated outsiders is carried through with the inclusion of lifestyle pieces on where and what people of this generation are doing. Are you glad you are finally being represented by something other than *Details* and *Maxim*? Actually, the lost demographic is wealthy boomers.

The magazine is called *The Wealthy Boomer: In Pursuit of Wealth, Wisdom and Well-Being*. You can't get much more ostentatious than that. It is put out by a gaggle of Torontonians, most of whom spend their days at that other bastion of tax-rage, *The National Post*. The cover of volume 2 has an extremely unflattering cartoon of Jean Chretien with well over 80% of the flesh on his face lobbed onto the left side. The cover story is "Chretien Shrugged". The article's intro explains, to those in pursuit of wisdom as part of their holy triumvirate, that this is a reference to a libertarian writer Ayn Rand. Yes, thank you.

This magazine is revolting in both its unabashed glorification of wealth and its dismissal of Canadian financial laws and most relatively common Canadian values. The first half of the mag is filled with either financial advice and opinion pieces on tax-rage and tax avoidance. One article gives a firsthand account of a man who moved to Mexico with his wife. Everything is apparently cheaper in Mexico, he pays next to no taxes and makes money by spending the morning trading online. He doesn't mention if he misses his friends back in Montreal or whether he actually left any. The second half of the mag is fleshed out with lifestyle bits on cars, fitness and travel. They seem to have run out of money before they could pay for a copy editor who would have caught the factual errors like placing the Falklands War in 1992, spelling mistakes, and an irritating affection for Anglicisms.

This isn't a rant against those German car driving yuppie scum who have more money than they know what to do with. Rather, a question: how many people think like this? The publisher either has deep pockets or incredible confidence in the large number of readers that this publication will attract. Has our late twentieth century economic boom led to a group of fortysomethings who have a lot of money and little interest in anything but expensive wines and index funds? And what happened to a little bit of Canadian shyness regarding consumption and greed? Its veneer is thin but veneer counts for something. Couldn't we enjoy wealth and volunteer work? Wisdom and compassion? Not yet.

Cultural Taste at Place des Arts

Pianist Freire stepped up to challenge of Rach's second concerto

BY ANDREW GOLDSTEIN

Thursday's sold out performance at Place des Arts prompted a standing ovation from the near capacity audience. Invited pianist Nelson Freire, who played Rachmaninov's second piano concerto, was invited to take several bows while the impressed audience applauded enthusiastically.

Although some critics found his interpretation overly technical and were shocked at the miscommunication between Freire and conductor Matthias Barnert, none could deny the technical ability of the pianist's in performance of one of Rachmaninov's more demanding piano concertos.

Sergei Vasilyevich Rachmaninov (1873-1943) was born April 1st, 1873, to Lubov Boutakov and Vasily Rachmaninov at Oneg in Russia. After studying at the St. Petersburg and Moscow Conservatories, Sergei Rachmaninov embarked on a career in Russia as a composer, pianist and conductor. Exile from his own country after the Communist Revolution of 1917 forced an increased concentration on

performance, and he subsequently became one of the most distinguished pianists of his day.

The second of Rachmaninov's four piano concertos holds an unchallenged position among romantic works. Its strange origins give critics and fans an insight into the composer's enigmatic character. Because he was an especially sensitive artist, the poor reviews of Rachmaninov's first concerto led him into a state of melancholy and despair. He eventually consulted a therapist who specialized in treating nervous disorders in performers. While Rachmaninov was reduced to a hypnotic state, his therapist would repeat phrases like "you will begin to write your concerto... you will write with great facility." It seemed to help, and Thursday's performance showed off the success of his compositions.

The concert began with a short sym-

phony by Joseph Hayden, which Hayden wrote for his employer, Prince Nicholas Esterhazy in 1774. Then, the piano was moved to the center of the stage, Nelson Freire took a short bow and began to play.



Pianist Nelson Freire, who performed Rachmaninov's second piano concerto at Place des Arts on Thursday

The first movement of Rachmaninov's second concerto is a violent clash between piano and the orchestra, during which both duel for the melody and the defeated settles for the accompaniment. The second movement is more subdued, and is filled with harmonies between the piano and orchestra. The third movement is the violent climax; dramatic and colorful like the first.

After the intermission, the orchestra concluded with selected excerpts from Sergei Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*. The audience, impressed with the entire evening's repertoire, heartily applauded the conductor and the

orchestra.

While all three compositions were embraced, Rachmaninov's work made the greatest impression, echoing the composer's words: "I write down on paper the music I hear within me, as naturally as possible...What I try to do, when writing down my music, is to make it say simply and directly that which is in my heart when I am composing."



Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninov

The Future of Animals in Medical Research

PANEL DISCUSSION

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Tuesday, March 28, 2000

7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)



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John Cusack and Jack Black in *High Fidelity*

Cusack in Hi-Fi

Pump Up the Volume meets Grosse Pointe Blank in High Fidelity

BY JASON REHEL

The newly released, high energy, hard-nosed comedic take on love from John Cusack and friends offers a unique Cusackian perspective on why men do the things they do and what they're thinking when they do them.

High Fidelity is part *Clerks*, part *Say Anything*, and part *Sringers*, but with a charm all its own. It's a comedy with some interesting things to say about relationships. The film, based on the novel of the same name by Nick Hornby, is co-produced and co-written by Cusack who also stars as the film's central link to the audience as the angst-ridden, thirty-something, record store owner, Rob Gordon. He's joined in his record store by the notoriously silly Jack Black as Barry and Todd Louiso as Dick, (Rob's employees) and the trio provided the majority of the laughs in the movie.

What's happening here? Well it's a familiar tale of love, love lost, love gone off elsewhere, and the subsequent temporary insanity. The film's strengths are in its honest-to-a-fault depictions of Rob's search for vindication following his girlfriend's untimely withdrawal from his sinking life.

Highlights: We have Cusack in his familiar *Say Anything* pose under a window in the pouring rain, calling out to the girl of his dreams. Well... kind of. The difference here is that the whole idea of "the girl of his dreams" is what Rob calls into question, and Rob's antics would hardly be anything that Lloyd Dobbler

would be proud to call his own. So Rob moves along, not chasing the one girl, but examining all the loves he has lost, starting from age 14. The flashbacks are cute, and the subsequent adult reunions are smashing.

Cusack fans will not be disappointed. Their idol delivers a convincing performance of a less than lovable protagonist and he is especially more believable for all the neurotic musical affiliations that the script requires him to have (organizing record collections autobiographically, making mixed tapes a veritable science, and doing top five lists on everything).

The musical component of the movie is well-integrated into the comedy. It's easy to get the feeling that you've been into a record store where a Rob, Dick and Barry have evaluated and dismissed your own musical tastes. Their snobbery reigns supreme, and their slapstick is not overdone. If anything, the film could have done with a bit more of it.

However, the overall thread that holds this movie together — the frequent monologues that Cusack gives to the camera, done in the same style as Zack from *Saved by the Bell* — weakens the comedy, and become almost tiring. In fact, if it weren't Cusack delivering these monologues, the film would fall flat on its ass.

This film got an "R" rating, and it wasn't hard to figure out why. The ridiculous number of "fucks" in the script showed a disregard for reality, because, yes, people swear, but no, most people don't swear every second word, and yes, it ceases to be

funny after about ten minutes.

Of the various ex-girlfriends presented, Sarah is refreshing to see as Lili Taylor. Of the various other side shows, Joan Cusack gives a great comedic performance in the bit role of Liz, Laura's best friend. And hey, for some strange reason, it's always great to see John and Joan on the screen together.

Laura. Yes. Umm... Laura. Played by Dane Iben Hjejle (who offers a decent performance as Rob's current on-again-off-again flame), her lines were simply unbelievable. It's tough to buy her as anything more than a pretty face in most cases and she certainly doesn't come off as anywhere near intense enough to be in a relationship with a Cusack character. Remember *Ione Skye* in *Say Anything*? Well, it's that bad. Except, yeah, she is prettier.

My favourite moment: Rob's onscreen imaginings of what he will do in a situation when confronted with Tim Robbin's character (the guy who steals Rob's girlfriend). The film needed more of this exact type of story telling, à la *Run Lola Run* and less of the mundane "I'm going to tell you a story now" monologues.

Cusack fans: see this movie. Everyone else: read the book and wait for it to hit the repertory theatres in a few months. What John Cusack unfortunately hasn't realized to date is that he should stick to the on-screen stuff and stay out of script-writing.

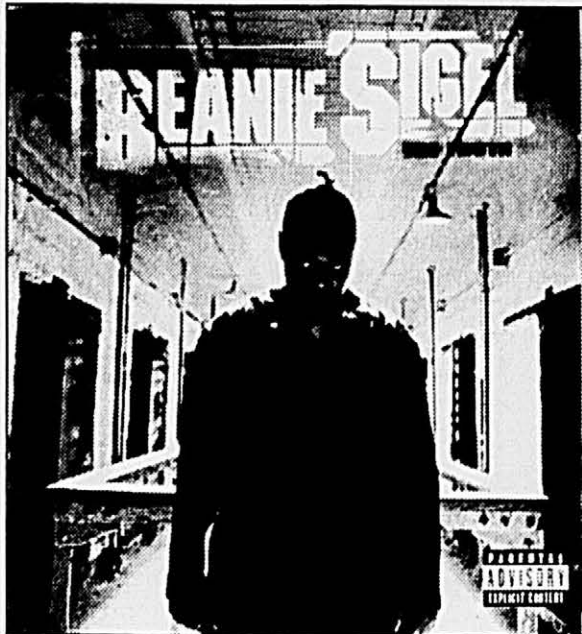
High Fidelity opens in wide release this Friday, March 31.

We're sorry.

Uncle Cam called in sick once again. And we can't find Zachsky.
 But chances are at least one of them will be back next week.

We'll all keep our fingers crossed here at THE MCGILL DAILY

CD REVIEWS



BEANIE SIGEL
THE TRUTH
(ROC-A-FELLA RECORDS)

Beanie Sigel's debut album, *The Truth*, is one of the first innovative projects of the 21st century with classic appeal. The voice, the flow and the lyrical rhymes make Sigel sound like no other. He leaves his mark on the rap game much like the debuts from Biggie Smalls with *Ready to Die* and Nas with *Illmatic*.

Sigel has been making noise since his appearance on Jay-Z's "Reservoir Dogs" off the *Hard Knock Life* album. Jay-Z discovered him at a studio session in New York, where he was outrightly blown away by his performance and lyrical ability: "He was polished like he'd been rappin' his whole life. His voice was killin' me. His slang and accent. Everything about him was right." Jay-Z continued to say, "Mostly I just saw the furtherment of Roc-A-Fella."

The Truth plays with no fillers and will have rap fans pushing the rewind button more than once. His street presence is evident from the very beginning with the title track, which allows him to give an account of street life to a simple two-note organ sample and an underlying piano riff. The next cut, "Who Want What," is a sure-hit made for the club scene that features another young MC from Roc-A-Fella, Memphis Bleek. These two gel and complement each other like Batman and Robin, and provide insight into the bright future of Roc-A-Fella.

On "Raw & Uncut," Jay-Z makes an appearance on some serious "mic-rippin'" skills that is then followed by another head-banger, "Mac Man." Eve and Sigel link up on the sentimental track "Remember Them Days" to provide a blast into the past of their lives spent in Philly. The standout cut, "What Your Life Like," takes listeners into a descriptive analysis of life in prison. The bars are pulled back and we enter into this world with Beanie Sigel as our tour guide.

Straight up, the rhymes and the production of *The Truth* are off the hook. Producers like Rockwilder and Robert "Shim" Kirkland compliment Sigel's vision with their abilities to dish out phat beats.

The Mac Man, Beanie Sigel, is about to put this rap game on lock control. Enter his world and prepare to be hypnotized by the voice, the flow, and the rhymes.

—Ricky C. Gordon

LET'S GET FREE DEAD PREZ (LOUD/SONY)

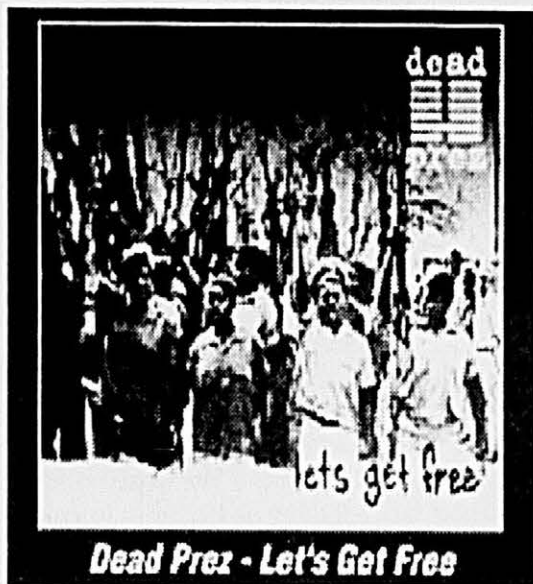
When heads talk of political hip-hop, it's usually groups like PE, X-Clan or PRT; crews from the early nineties before "the pro-black was going out of style." Who you don't hear about are the Black Stars, Jerus, CoFlows, and

Organized. But with Kweli "exploring psychologies of war" and Common "writin' for freedom" you might wonder why the political label has eluded them. The reason is because, since the early nineties afroc-centric era, we have gone from a militant Panther-esque type style to a more periph-

part of the Uhuru Movement, these students of the *I-Ching* (Book of Change, the oldest written work known to man) have set up food co-ops and clothing drives in their current native, Brooklyn. They've rallied for the release of political prisoners like Fred Hampton Jr. and Mumia Abdul-Jamal and, sometime in between all these projects, they've laid down an airtight LP that's going to change some things in this hip-hop shit.

Usually, the issues that these brothers touch would earn my respect on the subject matter alone, but the fact is that this album would blaze 90% of the competition even if their complex rhyme schemes were about dental plaque (luckily they prefer to rhyme about Mao Tse Tung and revolution). Stic and M-I's flows covers a large style spectrum, sometimes reminiscent of CNN while, at others, more Goodie Mob. At all times, though, the DP's come off nice like, "I'm a runaway slave watching the north star, shackles on my forearms, running with a gun in my palm." Prepare for the revolution.

—Joe Lucina



LE TIGRE
(SELF TITLED ALBUM)
(WHIJA
RECORDS/BEGGARS
BANQUET)

Le Tigre, a girly punk band from the New York City scene, provides for an interesting twist to the concept of the punk trio. First, this isn't Greenday. In some sense at least, it's not really even punk.

There are lots of eral commentary and loosely associated the terms "political" with the former and "conscious" with the latter. Dead Prez is both political and conscious but, more importantly, they're belligerent.

The DP's first blessed domes in '97 with Food, Clothes, and Shelter/Happiness/These Are the Times and have been buildin' (literally) ever since. As

tape loops and sampling and strange sounding instrumentation. Actually, a good way to describe this might be to call it a girl-like version of Beck with a feminist twist. But, much like Beck, this sound will not be for everyone. One of the coolest things about them is that their guitar riffs on several tracks are a throwback from early punk and they have an almost Clash-



seems to shine through: "I wanna spread my dementia / I wanna knock it off the line / Give me attention / every day and every night."

A point which should not be lost is that this music is fun. "Friendship Station" and at least a half-dozen of the other twelve tracks are completely danceable,

and certainly offer the opportunity for something a bit different in terms of your idea of dance. The tracks don't drag on, as good punk never does. They last an average of three minutes each and they come in, hit you over the head with something musically interesting while throwing wry comments on women at you which, in many cases, reflect the musical grit of their sound.

A refreshing mix of modern musical experimentation and punk ideals fashioned in a feminist light. What will those punkrockers think of next?

—Jason Rebel

—Jason Rebel

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...endnotes

EVERY TOY'S DREAM

Congratulations go out to the newest inductees into the National Toy Hall of Fame in Salem, Oregon. This year's inductees are the Slinky, the jump rope, the bicycle, jacks, and Mr. Potato Head. Toys that didn't quite make the cut this year included Beanie Babies, the soccer ball, the cap gun, and GI Joe, who, upon hearing the news, swore that he and the cap gun would consolidate their powers to destroy the panel of educators that deprived them of every toy's dream. —*Tal Pinchersky*


lobbying. If hockey owners really want more funding, maybe they ought to drive their zambonis to Ottawa. Nurses can wheel patients on gurneys to 24 Sussex. And the logical extension for McGill is to have Bernard "J." Shapiro get behind the wheel of an egg roll truck and drive to the National Assembly. Then, in the fortune cookie, there can be subtle request for more funding. Imagine the fun as he drives through Roddick Gates with cash and hoisin sauce for everyone! —*Stere Barker*

CNN SPIN

FIRE UP THE EGGROLL TRUCK
Last week, B.C. farmer Nick Parsons made headlines and won an audience with the Prime Minister by driving his combine across Canada. This is obviously big news, as it opens up a whole new dimension for

CNN, the international news network that ranks among James Earl Jones' greatest voice-overs, has applied a decidedly low-key spin on the University of Toronto student sit-in in the president's office. While the fundamental issue underlying

this protest is campus-wide sales of clothing made in Third World sweatshops, CNN has focused primarily on the means used by the campus police to end the standoff. The U of T cops played the music of the Backstreet Boys and other pop groups in an attempt at sleep deprivation torture (the operative word obviously being torture). The lesson to be learned here is that if a student protest is to be acknowledged by the most conventional and mainstream of media outlets, the message is not nearly as important as the actions taken to stall that message. If students can somehow bring in even more annoying talent, they'll be ensured even greater headlines. If the OPIRGers can somehow gather Barry Manilow, John Tesh, and Yanni to serenade them in the president's office, they'd be bigger than Oprah. "Three Horribly Irritating Pianists Can't Deter Starving Students". Now THAT's journalistic gold! —*TP*



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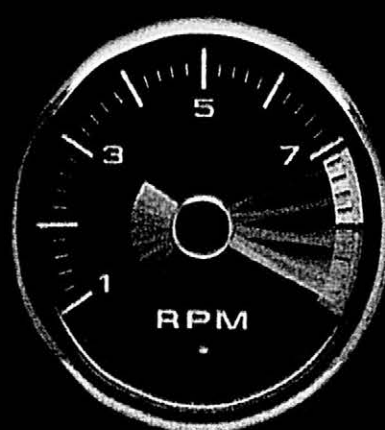
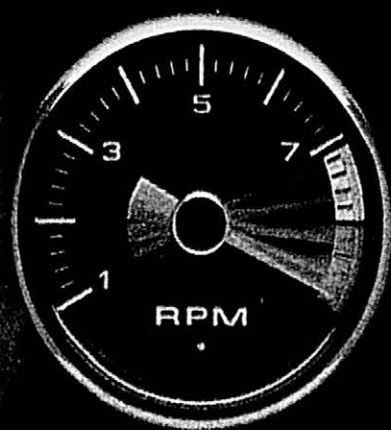
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